

ACTIVITY: Spearfishing

CASE: GSAF 2005.04.16.b

DATE: Saturday April 16, 2005

LOCATION: The incident took place off Bremer Island, about 20 kilometres north of Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory, Australia.

NAME: Clayton “Sharky” Deane

DESCRIPTION: He is a 20-year-old male from Nhulunbuy.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waxing Crescent, 45% of the Moon was illuminated. First Quarter, April 17, 2005.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE:

Unknown, but when Deane was grabbed by the shark he was three metres below the surface of the water.



NARRATIVE: Clayton Deane was spearfishing with a friend. “We'd only been in the water for about 10 minutes and my mate had just speared a fish in the gills so there was loads of blood around that must have attracted it. The shark came in like a missile — it didn't circle us or anything. The very next thing I knew I had my head in the air and the shark had a hold of my goggles. . .I just felt this thing smash my head,” said Deane. “It wasn't until I went back under the water and saw my mate's eyes popping out of his head that I knew what had happened. Then I saw this shadow dart off and I realized I had blood pouring out of my right eye.”

The impact of the bite threw Deane out of the water, then the shark swam away. “My mate dropped his spear gun and his fish so I knew it was serious and we started swimming for the boat,” said Deane. Despite his injuries, Deane is adamant he will be back in the water at the first opportunity. “I'll jump back in again — I'll probably go next week,” he said. “I've been fishing my whole life — I love it.”

FIRST AID / TREATMENT After swimming back to the boat, the pair motored back to Nhulunbuy, where Deane was patched up at the hospital.

INJURY: Deane escaped with only cuts above his right eye and was back at work on Monday.

SPECIES INVOLVED: “I'm not exactly sure how big [the shark] was or what type it was but I wasn't going to hang around and measure it,” said Deane. “My mate got whacked by its tail as it took me up and he was a few metres away so it must have been a fair size.” However, according to the press report, the incident involved a two-metre bronze whaler, *Carcharhinus brachyurus*.

SOURCES: Greg McLean, Northern Territory News

http://www.ntnews.news.com.au/common/story_page/1,7034,15014417%255E13569,00.html

Northern Territorian, April 17, 2005, page 6